

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

RICHARD E. UNDERWOOD,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 5:17CV92  
(STAMP)

DONALD S. MITCHELL and WENDI MITCHELL  
d/b/a STEVE MITCHELL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING,  
and STEVE MITCHELL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING, LLC,  
a West Virginia limited liability company,

Defendants.

**ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION AND SCHEDULING ORDER**

Pursuant to this Court's order (ECF No. 22), the parties in the above-styled civil action filed a joint stipulation (ECF No. 24) on March 7, 2018, advising the Court "that additional time for discovery and potential pretrial motions is required by the parties in this matter." ECF No. 24 at 1. The parties agree that "a time frame of 180 days will be sufficient for the same, and the parties request that a scheduling Order be entered which reflects the addition of 180 days to each date previously set forth in the prior scheduling Order." Id. In addition, "the parties agree that Defendants shall have twenty (20) days from the date of the filing of this Stipulation to file an Answer to the Complaint." Id.

For good cause shown, the parties' stipulation (ECF No. 24) is APPROVED. Accordingly, the defendants shall file an answer to the plaintiff's complaint on or before **March 27, 2018.**

This Court has reviewed the Report of parties' planning meeting (ECF No. 10) and finds that no scheduling conference is

needed. The Court has also taken into account the parties' stipulation requesting "that a scheduling Order be entered which reflects the addition of 180 days to each date previously set forth." ECF No. 24 at 1. Accordingly, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b), Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) and the Local Rules, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. Discovery: All discovery shall be fully served and completed by **September 17, 2018**. "Completed discovery" as used in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) means that all discovery, objections, motions to compel and all other motions and replies relating to discovery in this civil action must be filed in time for the parties objecting or responding to have the opportunity under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to make responses. The term "all discovery" in the preceding definition of "complete discovery" includes the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) and (2), but does not include the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3).

Parties have a continuing obligation to supplement their responses beyond the discovery cut-off date as provided in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e). The parties should refer to LR Civ P 5.01, LR Civ P 26.01-26.04, LR Civ P 33.01, LR Civ P 34.01, LR Civ P 36.01, LR Civ P 37.02 for further instructions on discovery practice.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Reference to these and other local rules are to the Local Rules, as revised, and made effective July 20, 2010.

2. Discovery Limitations: The preemptive limitations on discovery (i.e., numbers of interrogatories, requests for admissions, and depositions) set out in LR Civ P 26.01(c) apply to this action unless stipulated to by the parties and agreed to by the Court or otherwise ordered. Before moving for an order relating to discovery, the moving party must first request a conference with the magistrate judge assigned to the case. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(3)(B)(v).

3. Mediation: This Court encourages either court-facilitated or private mediation as a method to resolve the claims in this civil action. If the parties have not conducted mediation prior to the deadline for disclosure of experts provided in paragraph 4 below, the parties shall confer to consider whether this case would benefit from mediation. Thereafter, the parties are DIRECTED to inform the Court if mediation is desired and, if so, whether the parties will employ a private mediator or would like the Court to schedule a court-facilitated mediator. If the parties employ a private mediator, lead counsel for the plaintiff shall instruct the private mediator to complete the mediation report form (which is available at this Court's website at [www.wvnd.uscourts.gov/documents/forms](http://www.wvnd.uscourts.gov/documents/forms)) and submit the completed mediation report form to the appropriate clerk's office within **ten** days following the mediation.

4. Expert Disclosures: The party bearing the burden of proof on an issue shall make the disclosures required by Fed. R.

Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A) and (B) for that issue to all other parties or their counsel no later than July 23, 2018.

The party not bearing the burden of proof on an issue shall make the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A) and (B) for that issue to all other parties or their counsel no later than August 13, 2018.

All parties shall provide the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A) and (B) if the evidence is intended solely to contradict or rebut evidence on the same issue identified by another party under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B) no later than August 27, 2018.

The disclosures described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B) shall not be required of physicians and other medical providers who examined or treated a party or party's decedent unless the examination was for the sole purpose of providing expert testimony in the case.

5. Examinations: All independent physical or mental examinations or inspection of property shall be completed by August 6, 2018.

6. Joinder, Amendments, Crossclaims, Counterclaims and Third-Party Complaints: Motions to join additional parties, motions to amend pleadings, and any crossclaim or counterclaim, as well as any similar motions, shall be filed on or before July 16, 2018. Any response or reply shall be filed in accordance with LR Civ P 7.02(b).

Any party filing a motion to amend a pleading, a third-party complaint, a surreply, or any other pleading that requires leave of court to file shall attach to that motion a signed copy of the proposed amended pleading. However, the amended pleading shall not be filed until the Court grants the particular motion.

7. Dispositive Motions: All dispositive motions, as well as deposition transcripts, admissions, documents, affidavits, and any other such matters in support thereof, shall be filed at the Clerk's Office with copies served upon opposing counsel by October 1, 2018. Any such motion must be supported by a memorandum at the time the motion is filed. Memoranda in opposition to such motions filed on the above deadline date shall be filed with copies served upon opposing counsel on or before October 22, 2018. If a motion has been filed before the above deadline date, opposing counsel is directed to comply with LR Civ P 7.02(b), which requires responses no later than twenty-one days after the date of service of the motion. Any reply memoranda shall be filed with copies served upon opposing counsel on or before November 5, 2018 or, if the response is filed prior to the above deadline date, within fourteen business days from the date of service of the memorandum in response to the motion. All dispositive motions unsupported by memoranda will be denied without prejudice. The parties shall comply with LR Civ P 7.02 imposing a page limitation upon memoranda unless a motion to exceed the page limitation is granted. See LR Civ P 7.02.

Factual assertions made in memoranda should be supported by specific references, including page or paragraph numbers, to affidavits, depositions or other documents made a part of the record before the Court. Copies of the supporting documents, or relevant portions thereof, should be appended to the memoranda. The parties may refer to LR Civ P 7.02 for details on motion practice before this Court.

**Deadlines for the filing of dispositive motions shall be altered only upon order of the Court.**

8. Settlement Conference and Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) Disclosures: Pursuant to LR Civ P 16.04(a), counsel shall meet to conduct settlement negotiations no later than **December 7, 2018**. Lead trial counsel for the plaintiff shall take the initiative in scheduling such a meeting; all other counsel shall cooperate in the effort to achieve a successful negotiation and settlement. Counsel must be prepared at the pretrial conference to certify that they tried in their meeting to settle the case.

If the case is not settled at the meeting, and if there is no order or stipulation to the contrary, counsel shall make all Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) disclosures at the settlement meeting.

9. Jury Instructions and Voir Dire: Proposed jury instructions **on substantive theories of recovery or defense**, on damages and on evidentiary matters peculiar to the case, together with pertinent statutory and case authority, special interrogatories and verdict forms, if any be appropriate to the

case, and all proposed voir dire questions requested by counsel for submission to the jury shall be exchanged by counsel and filed not later than December 19, 2018.

If the instructions and voir dire in this case are being typed on a computer, counsel are requested to provide to the court a disk containing the instructions in WordPerfect 12.0 format which is labeled as to the case style, civil action number and party proposing the instructions. The envelope containing the disk should be marked "Contains Disk -- Do Not X-Ray -- May Be Opened for Inspection." The disk will be returned to counsel if requested.

10. Motions in Limine: No motion in limine may be filed unless and until the moving party consults with opposing counsel to determine whether the matter presented in the motion is actually in dispute. If the matter is not in dispute, but the party wishes to preserve the matter for the record, such party may file a stipulation after consulting with opposing counsel.

Where a matter is actually in dispute, all motions in limine, including motions relating to Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993), accompanied by memoranda of law, and all other related pretrial motions shall be filed not later than December 14, 2018. Responses to such motions shall be filed by December 21, 2018.

If a motion has been filed before the above deadline date, opposing counsel is directed to respond no later than fourteen days

after the date of service of the motion in accordance with LR Civ P 7.02, or respond by the date given in this scheduling order, whichever date comes first.

11. Joint Pretrial Order: A proposed joint pretrial order, titled "Pretrial Order," shall be filed not later than December 12, 2018. The proposed joint pretrial order shall contain at least those matters provided for under LR Civ P 16.04(b). The witness lists, **which shall be filed as part of the pretrial order**, shall be considered by this Court as final lists and shall not be modified except for good cause shown. Following the pretrial conference, this Court shall enter the pretrial order which shall then be modified only with the permission of the Court.

**The plaintiff shall be responsible for initiating the preparation of the joint pretrial order.**

12. Exhibits and Objections to Exhibits: On or before December 17, 2018, plaintiff and defendant shall each:

- a. file **A LIST** of proposed exhibits,
- b. submit to the Clerk **ONE BINDER OF COPIES OF THE EXHIBITS**, with the exhibits indexed and individually tabbed, for the Court's use, and
- c. forward copies of the proposed exhibits to opposing counsel.

Objections to exhibits, **WITH THE STATED REASONS FOR THE OBJECTION AND THE EXHIBIT TO WHICH OBJECTION IS MADE ATTACHED**,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>When a party objects to an exhibit which is voluminous in size, the party may refer to the exhibit by number and dispense with this requirement, as long as the Court has previously been provided with a copy of the relevant exhibit binder.



shall be filed on or before December 24, 2018. Failure to state the reasons for the objections may constitute a waiver of objections. Further, failure to timely file an objection to an exhibit shall result in this Court deeming the exhibit admitted.

All exhibits shall be appropriately marked in numerical sequence (not lettered). Exhibit markers may be secured from the Clerk. **ORIGINAL EXHIBITS** shall be filed **AT THE TIME OF TRIAL AND SHOULD NOT BE FILED PRIOR TO TRIAL**. If counsel desires each juror to have a binder of copies of exhibits to view as counsel examines witnesses, these should be prepared for presentation to each juror at the appropriate time but with the Court's permission.

13. Interrogatories and Depositions to be Used at Trial and Objections: On or before December 17, 2018, plaintiff shall file any interrogatories, answers thereto, depositions, etc., **specifying the appropriate portions thereto that plaintiff intends to offer in this case**. Defendant shall do the same on or before December 24, 2018. Any objection to the introduction of any of the foregoing shall be filed in writing by the objecting party or parties no later than December 27, 2018 or such objection shall be deemed to have been waived. This paragraph does not apply to discovery materials that will be used at trial solely in cross-examination or for impeachment.

14. Biographical Sketches: Biographical sketches of any proposed expert witnesses shall be filed and served upon opposing counsel by December 17, 2018.

15. Stipulation of Facts: Counsel are encouraged to meet and enter into stipulations of facts in this case and any such stipulation shall be reduced to writing, signed by counsel and filed and served upon opposing counsel by **December 17, 2018**.

16. Pretrial Conference/Final Settlement Conference: A pretrial conference/final settlement conference shall be held on **December 17, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.** in the undersigned judge's chambers at Wheeling, West Virginia. The conference shall be attended by lead trial counsel for each party. Counsel should be prepared to participate fully and to discuss all aspects of the case and the matters set forth in the pretrial order previously filed. Individuals with full authority to settle the case for each party shall be present in person or immediately available by telephone.

17. Trial: Jury selection in this action shall commence on **January 2, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.** in the South Courtroom at Wheeling, West Virginia. Trial will commence upon the completion of jury selection in any other case scheduled for this date. This case is presently the first case on the trial docket for that week.

18. Motion for Continuance: A party or parties requesting a continuance must contact all other parties to determine three possible dates to which to move the deadline or hearing. The moving party must specify these three possible dates within the motion to continue. LR Gen P 88.02. If any party or parties object to a continuance, that fact shall be noted in the motion.

19. Settlement Authority and Sanctions: At least one of the attorneys for each party participating in any conference before trial shall have authority to make decisions as to settlement, stipulations and admissions on all matters that participants reasonably anticipate may be discussed. Counsel and parties are subject to sanctions for failures and lack of preparation specified in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f) and LR Civ P 37.01 respecting pretrial conferences or orders.

20. Deadlines Final: The time limitations set forth above shall not be altered except as set forth in LR Civ P 16.01(f).

All dates for filings refer to the date the materials must be actually received, not the mailing date.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

The Clerk is DIRECTED to transmit a copy of this order to counsel of record herein.

DATED: March 9, 2018

/s/ Frederick P. Stamp, Jr.  
FREDERICK P. STAMP, JR.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE